In the claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A silver alloy for use in a reflective film, comprising silver as a main element and at least one rare-earth element as a first dopant element.

2. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1, wherein the first dopant element ~~is~~ comprises at least ~~either~~ one of dysprosium ~~or~~ and thulium.

3. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1, wherein the first dopant element ~~is~~ comprises at least ~~any~~ one of terbium, gadolinium, erbium, neodymium, holmium, praseodymium, samarium, lanthanum, cerium, ytterbium, and europium.

4. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, comprising gallium as a second dopant element.

5. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, comprising as ~~the~~ a second dopant element at least ~~either~~ one of platinum ~~or~~ and palladium.

6. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, comprising as ~~the~~ a second dopant element at least one element selected from magnesium, zinc, nickel, molybdenum, gold and aluminum.

7. (Currently Amended)The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, comprising as ~~the~~ a second dopant element at least one element selected from copper, cobalt, tin, titanium, bismuth, manganese, scandium, and yttrium.

8. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, comprising as ~~the~~ a second dopant element at least one element selected from silicon, chromium, iron, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, tungsten, rhodium, iridium, indium, lead, calcium, antimony, strontium, hafnium, germanium, and boron.

9. (Currently Amended) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 1 comprising a second dopant element ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein a total of the concentration of the first dopant element and the concentration of the second dopant element are 0.01 to 5.0 atomic %.

10. (ORIGINAL) The silver alloy for use in a reflective film according to claim 9, wherein the total of the concentration of the first dopant element and the concentration of the second dopant element are 0.01 to 3.0 atomic %.

11. (Currently Amended) A sputtering target, comprising the silver alloy as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~.

12. (NEW) An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a silver alloy on the substrate which silver alloy comprises silver and at least one rare-earth element as a first dopant element.

13. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a first dopant element comprising at least one of at least one of dysprosium and thulium.

14. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a first dopant element comprising at least one of terbium, gadolinium, erbium, neodymium, holmium, praseodymium, samarium, lanthanum, cerium, ytterbium, and europium.

15. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a second dopant element comprising gallium.

16. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a second dopant element comprising at least one element selected from platinum and palladium.

17. (NEW) The optical recording medium silver according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a second dopant element comprising at least one element selected from magnesium, zinc, nickel, molybdenum, gold and aluminum.

18. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a second dopant element comprising at least one element selected from copper, cobalt, tin, titanium, bismuth, manganese, scandium, and yttrium.

19. (NEW) The optical recording medium according to claim 12 wherein the silver alloy comprises a second dopant element comprising at least one element selected from silicon, chromium, iron, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, tungsten, rhodium, iridium, indium, lead, calcium, antimony, strontium, hafnium, germanium, and boron.

20. (NEW) A method for producing an optical recording medium which comprises forming a film of a silver alloy on a substrate, which silver alloy comprises a first dopant element selected from at least one of dysprosium, thulium, terbium, gadolinium, erbium, neodymium, holmium, praseodymium, samarium, lanthanum, cerium, ytterbium, and europium; and which silver alloy optionally further comprises a second dopant element selected from at least one of platinum, palladium, magnesium, zinc, nickel, molybdenum, gold, aluminum, copper, cobalt, tin, titanium, bismuth, manganese, scandium, yttrium,

silicon, chromium, iron, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, tungsten, rhodium, iridium, indium, lead, calcium, antimony, strontium, hafnium, germanium, and boron.